

**Fit for the Kingdom**  
**Looking Forward...Not Looking Back**  
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Luke 9:1, *Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. 2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. 3 And He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece. 62, But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*



Exodus 14:14, *"The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." 15] And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward."*

The people of Israel "felt" like they were stuck with no way out. It was a valid feeling, but it had no bearing on God's plan for them. Their collect hands were on the plow, so this was not time to look back.

Beware of feelings. Feelings are not final reality. I have been on flights that are so smooth that it did not feel like we were moving. Six inches from where I am sitting next to a window is pandemonium going on at 35,000 feet, air moving at 650 miles per hour and sub zero air

I have been merry-go-rounds where everything was moving and I was only going in a circle.

Feelings and emotionalism are so strong until people don't even believe the words they are reading because feeling a certain way. I am so glad that many of the most important people in my life don't operate on how they feel. My attorney, my pilot, my doctors, my pastor, my close friends.

The Bible says that "We walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Cor. 5:7 Our feelings walk by sight, not by faith

**Forward defined:** To cause to proceed or progress toward a goal. To cause to go or be taken from one place, person, or condition to another.

There is a place called "forward" for you. For Israel, their "forward" was something called the "Promised Land." For Jesus disciples, forward was the assignment he gave them as partners and fellow-laborers with Him.

Neither the disciples nor The people of Israel possessed a map of their purpose and promised land. This was more of an idea and something greater than their present condition in Egypt.

We are people of ideas and dreams. Our thoughts create a sense of hope. We have the amazing ability to place an image in our minds eye and construct the beginning of a new reality.

Feeling "stuck" is not uncommon. We all face that feeling from time to time. Israel certainly felt that way as they were staring at an impassable body of water, with an Egyptian army bearing down on them. We can hardly imagine how the people must have felt in that moment. But God knew he had to get them and Moses out of that feeling.

The good news is this: We serve a God who is never stuck and never has to wonder what He will do next! We serve a God who knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10).

This is way Jesus said, *"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

We were not designed to know the future. We are well acquainted with our past. Your past is easy to remember and lean on. It's more difficult to trust God for your future, because you can't see it. We must listen to God because He knows the future, follow His instructions, and to walk by faith.

When people get stuck, or lose hope for the future, they begin living in the past or looking for something in the past to inform their future. Yes, we have learned lessons in our past, but those lessons were designed to help us live for the future. For example: I remember struggling to learn some aspects of mathematics. I even struggled to learn techniques of art and design, even though I had talent for it. Today, I never relive my struggles my learning math, art, and design. I only use it to do new things.

**In that moment of extreme crisis God did two things for the Israelites:**

- 1) He put a pillar of fire between the people of Israel and the pursuing Egyptian army. By this, the people knew they were not alone.
- 2) God told Moses to tell the people to "Go forward."

Here is some more good news: You don't have to be concerned about things that don't make sense to you. You need to embrace what God is saying (not only what he said), and what Scriptures and spiritual principles govern or control you and your circumstances.

### **Look for a pillar of fire in your life and circumstances.**

This might not necessarily be a visible miraculous sign. Your pillar fire is the blessing and provision of God that protects you from your past. Just like the fire kept the Egyptian army from overtaking Israel, God stands between you and your past bondage.

You might be enjoying extended years of life because of God's healing power. That's a *pillar of fire* for you. You might have the blessing of people who love you and continue to support you every day of your life. That's a *pillar of fire* for you.

It is something that removes any doubt that God is with you and continues to keep the enemy from overtaking you.

Today, God is still saying, "Go forward." Forward is the only direction that God is moving. You can go forward even when you are forced to stand still. Forward is a place to which God leads people of purpose and destiny. Forward is a place that stretches your faith and exercises your prayer life. Forward is the place and the direction the vision takes you.

We can always go forward because "forward" is not only a direction, it is a place, it is a mindset, a sense of purpose, and promise from God.

All of our limitations are known by God, but our limitations do not limit Him. Our limitations won't limit us when we learn how to listen and learn. Remember this: We are made in the image of God. He is not made in our image. This is important because our tendency is to become a god unto ourselves.



This is the reality of "fitness" for the Kingdom of God. Putting your hand to the plow is the decision to go straight forward with God. It is impossible to create straight rows for sowing seeds for harvest if we are looking back.

Luke 9:62, *But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*